GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3318
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2000
CELLULAR MOBILE SERVICE
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recommended that the Governmentshould allow cellular mobile service providers to offer the public in their licence area the service of making calls from mobile handsets handled through their agents; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Government have received recommendations of TRAI on provision of MobileCommunity Phone Service.TRAI have recommended that the Cellular Mobile Operator should beallowed to offer mobile community services through their employees/agents to the public in their licensed area through Mobile handsets. The service will make available the use of handset to members of public who do not own a handset of their own. TRAI have said that thetariff to be charged from the customer should be advertised as well as displayed prominently and that the users of the service should not be charged a tariff which is more than the air time charged plus the appropriate fixed network charge, if the call has travelled over some portion of the fixed network.
Before the above recommendations of TRAI is implemented, comments of TRAI have been sought on methodology to be adopted to protect the consumer interest so that they are not overcharged.